

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

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R 242341Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 148474

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 24

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 24,
1977:

Q. IN THE SENATE YESTERDAY, SENATOR PROXMIRE INTRODUCED
A LIST OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED AGAINST THE KURDS IN IRAQ,
APPARENTLY BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT; AND HE APPEALED TO
ALL COUNTRIES TO CONDEMN THESE ATROCITIES. I'M WONDERING
WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR OUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING
ANYTHING ABOUT CALLING THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONS
INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AS WE SEE THEM TO DO
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SOMETHING ABOUT THE ATROCITIES IN IRAQ AGAINST THESE
PEOPLE.

A. WELL, FIRST, I DON'T HAVE THE SENATOR'S REMARKS.
SECOND, I DON'T HAVE A REPORT ON ALLEGED ATROCITIES. AND
THIRD, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT AT THIS TIME.

Q. COULD YOU MAKE THAT CLEAR ABOUT DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TO
BEGIN NOW IN SOUTH AFRICA. I SUPPOSE THAT PRINCIPLE
APPLIES EVERYWHERE ELSE, DOESN'T IT, THAT WE ARE FOR

DEMOCRACY IN ALL COUNTRIES. WHY DON'T WE SAY SOMETHING
ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA SHARING POWER THERE? (LAUGHTER)

A. IN EVERY INSTANCE, AS WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, WE
ARE SIMPLY SEEKING TO FIRST CREATE A CLIMATE WHICH IS WELL
UNDERSTOOD, WHAT OUR POSITION IS UNIVERSALLY. AS TO HOW
IT IS APPLIED IN EACH CASE, THAT IS A MATTER WHICH
DEPENDS ON THE CASE.

Q. ARE YOU BEING SELECTIVE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND NOT
SELECTIVE WHEN IT COMES TO THE MIDDLE EAST WHEN YOU

TALK ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA?

A. I AGAIN WILL JUST HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A SELECTIVE POLICY. WHAT WE TRANSMIT IS OUR BASIC NOTION ABOUT THE PROPER END OF A POLITICAL PROCESS.

Q. FAIR ENOUGH. CAN WE SAY TOMORROW IN OUR PAPER THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY SAID THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS HAS TO MOVE FORWARD IN SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL AS IN SOUTH AFRICA. IS THAT FAIR?

A. WHAT YOU CAN SAY IN YOUR PAPER TOMORROW IS WHATEVER YOU WANT TO SAY.

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Q. WELL, I MEAN, WOULD YOU AGREE TO THAT? IS THIS THE PRINCIPLE?

A. WHAT I AM GOING TO SAY TO YOU IS THAT IT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY THAT WE BELIEVE THAT A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IS THE BEST FOR ALL THE PEOPLES WHEREVER THEY MAY BE.

Q. INCLUDING SAUDI ARABIA.

A. WAIT A MINUTE. AND I AM GOING TO MAKE THAT AS A GENERAL STATEMENT, AND INsofar AS NOW BEING ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, I AM NOT GOING TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO EACH AND EVERY COUNTRY THAT EXISTS.

Q. WAS THERE ANY QUESTION ASKED, OR HAVE YOU ANY RESPONSES TO PRIME MINSITER BEGIN'S STATEMENT THAT HE IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH THE ARAB LEADERS ANYWHERE, ANY TIME, ANY PLACE, WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS?

A. NO, I HAVE NOTED THOSE. I DON'T HAVE ANY OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO HIS SPEECH.
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